The house we used to live in looks at us stfully as we go driving by; wind that makes its near tree mur-

murous Flies swiftly after with entreating sigh. the grass-choked gate, the earth-

ter in your childhood's home once

beam in his curls—no, not that hill—evel road. Drive fast—oh, faster still. How small it was! Before the birds are

They lie so warmly in one tiny nest; But all the world is theirs when they have

And foreign roofs replace the mother's Ah, well-God careth. See, before us now The ampler home beneath a lofty bough. Lift up the saddened heart and clear the

For in that empty nest beyond the hill Are blessed shadows at immortal ease; The sun-crowned baby on the window-sill, The happy children underneath the trees. house, look not so piteous. Thou art larger lives the very sweetest part; The first love of the unforgetting heart.
-Ethelwyn Wetherald, in Youth's Com-

# My Strangest Case

BY GUY BOOTHBY.

Author of "Dr. Kikola," "The Beautiful White Devii," "Pharos, The Egyptian," Etc.

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CHAPTER VIII.—CONTINUED.

"This is a somewhat remarkable case," he said. "I will mention no names, but doubtless you can read between the lines. There was a man who murdered his wife in order that he might marry another woman. The thought which he gave to it, and the clever manner in which he laid his plans, not only for the murder but also for the disposal of the body, marked him as a criminal in the possession of a singularly brilliant intellect. He gave no hint to anybody, but left the country without leaving the faintest clew concerning his destination behind him. I was called in to talk over the case, but after some consideration could make nothing of it. I have no objection to admitting that I was completely baf-fled. Now it so happened that I disgovered that the man's mother was of Irish extraction. He, believing that he would be safe on that island, engaged a passage on board a steamer from Havre to Belfast. She was to pick up at Southampton, Plymouth and Bristol, en route. My man, who, by the way, was a very presentable person, and could be distinetly sociable when he pleased, en-

board produced some costly stones she happened to have in her possession. The murderer, who, you must understand, was quite safe, was unhappily eaten up with vanity. He could not forego the boast that he was the possessor of a magnificent ring, which had been given him by ex-Emperor Napoleon III. Needless to say this information excited

considerable interest, and he was asked to produce it for the general edification. "He declared that it was too late to do so that evening, but said that he would do so on the morrow, or, at any rate, before he left the vessel. In the excitement of reaching Southampton, the matter was for the moment forgotten, but on the day that they arrived in Plymouth one of the

lady passengers reminded him of his promise. This was followed by another application. Thus surrounded, the unhappy man found himself in the unpleasant position of being discovered in the perpetration of an untruth, or of being compelled to invent some feasible tale in order to account for his not being able to produce the ring. It was at this junc-Anxious doubtless to attract attenthe astounding declaration that the make-up." lock had been forced, and the famous it had lain concealed. He certainly the police, and a search was made induced him to take the flat. through the vessel. The passengers the pursuit had died down, it was his most necessary that my preparations about," he answered. "I have been intention to ship for America, where should not be suspected. he was to be joined by the woman, reached Plymouth, where it was way to Ireland. He immediately the charge against his fellow-passengers. After that it was easy to trace bim to Belfast and his hiding-place

isted, is it not?"

bassadeurs was progressing.

speech
Of newer days and push the past aside.
Close to that door the baby used to reach
The knob and play with it—before he died;
Le used to sleep on the broad window.

objection.

difference. To-morrow morning I not, a common occurrence. shall make a point of meeting him

iastic in my praise.

ing to reveal the occupation of their carriage drove away.
owner. His clever old servant, "That's my man," I said to my Susanne, of whom 'twas said she companion, as we watched it pass would, did she but choose, make as out of sight. "To-morrow morning clever a detective as her master (she I shall pay him a little visit. I think had served him for more than 40 you were quite right in what you years), brought us coffee so quickly said about the money. That woman that it would almost seem as if she must have made a fairly big hole in had been aware that we should reach it already."

will be necessary for us to find out much left for anybody else." what they are doing. If you will

He wrote something on a halfand handed it to Susanne.

tell him to be off with it at once."

inces, or a street beggar?"

"I think the elderly gentleman by Miss Kitwater.



TO MY OVERWHELMING SURPRISE HAYLE ENTERED THE ROOM.

my dressing-room, where you will was searching for him, yet here he seen one harem, I am quite satisfied, ture that he made his great mistake. first time. Let me conduct you to tion, he returned from his cabin with find all that is necessary for your of his own free will putting his head other."

He thereupon showed me to a ring stolen from his trunk in which room leading out of that in which we had hitherto been sitting. It was aced his part well, but he did not very small, and lighted by means of realize to what consequence it would a skylight. Indeed, it was that very lead. The matter was reported to skylight, so he always declared, that

"If this room looked out over the were naturally indignant at such back, or front, it would have been you, I came on at once." treatment, and for the rest of the necessary for me either to have curvoyage the man found himself tak- tains, which I abominate, or to run ing what you English call 'the cold the risk of being observed, which shoulder.' He reached Belfast, made would have been far worse," he had his way into the country, and pres- remarked to me once. "Needless to ently settled down. Later on, when say there are times when I find it conspired to bring such a result

Taken altogether, it was a room to obtain whom he had in the first that had a strange fascination for of this hole-and-corner sort of game, man. place committed the crime. Now ob- me. I had been in it many times be- I have made up my mind to settle it serve the result. Photographs of the fore, but was always able to discov- once and for all.' missing man and of the murdered er something new in it. It was a "I am glad you have come to that woman were circulated all through conglomeration of cupboards and way of thinking," I said. "It will France, while not a few were sent shelves. A large variety of costumes save us both an infinity of trouble. to England. One of these pictures hung upon the pegs in the walls, You understand, of course, that I repranging from soldier's uniforms to resent Messrs. Kitwater and Codd.' shown to the officer who had investi- beggar's rags. There were wigs of "I am well aware of it," he replied, gated the case on the boat on its all sorts and descriptions on blocks, "and in common fairness to myself, pads of every possible order and for I can only say that I am sorry to recognized the man who had made every part of the body, humps for hear it.' hunchbacks, wooden legs, boots ranging from the patent leather of the | "Because you have the honor to dandy to the toeless foot-covering of represent the biggest pair of scounon land. Extradition was of course the beggar. There were hats in drels unhung," he answered. "And in granted, and he left the place. Had abundance, from the spotless silk to saying this I pledge you my word what he is. he not imagined that in his safety the most miserable head coverings, that I am by no means overstepping he could indulge his vanities, I confi- some of which looked as if they had the mark. I have known them both dently believe I should never have been picked up from the rubbish- for a great many years, and can, found him. When you come to think heap. There were peddlers' trays fit- therefore, speak from experience."

HOUSE WE USED TO LIVE IN. of it, it is hard to come to the guil- ted with all and every sort of ware. Before going further with him 1 lotine for a diamond that never ex- a faro-table, a placard setting forth was desirous of convincing myself the fact that the renowned Prof. upon the point. I agreed with him, and then sug- Somebody or Other was a most regested that we should amuse our- markable phrenologist and worthy selves by endeavoring to find out of a visit. In fact there was no sayhow the dinner at the Cafe des Am- ing what there was not there. Everything that was calculated to be use-"They will proceed to a theater ful to him in his profession was to

> my identity. But to this wily little "One night does not make much Frenchman disguise was, as often as

Half an hour later, two respectable elderly gentlemen, looking more "Should you require any assist- like professors from some eminent ance then, I shall be most pleased to Lycee than detectives, left the house give it to you," my companion re- and proceeded in the direction of the Folly theater. The performance was I thanked him for his offer, and almost at an end when we reached then we left the restaurant together, it, and we mingled with the crowd hailed a cab, and drove to his flat. who had assembled to watch the It consisted of four rooms situated audience come out. The inquiries at the top of a lofty block of build- we had made proved to be correct, ings near the river. From his win- and it was not very long before I dows he could look out over Paris, saw the man I wanted emerge, acand he was wont to declare that the companied by a female, who could view he received in exchange was the be no other than Mme. Beaumarais. most beautiful in the world. Fine Hayle was in immaculate evening as it was, I was scarcely so enthus- dress, and, as I could not but admit, presented a handsome figure to the Among other things they were re- world. A neat little brougham drew markable for the simplicity of their up beside the pavement in its turn, furniture, and also for the fact that and into this they stepped. Then the in the sitting-room there was noth- door was closed upon them, and the

the house at that particular moment. "You may be quite sure of that," "We have plenty of time to spare," he answered. "When she has said my host. "In the meantime it finished with him there will not be

"And now to get these things off wait I will dispatch a messenger, and then home to bed. To-morrow who will procure us the informa- will in all probability prove an exciting day."

I accompanied him to his room and sheet of note-paper, rang the bell, removed the disguise which had enabled me to see Hayle without his "Give that to Leon," he said, "and being aware of my identity, and then, bidding my friend good night, The woman disappeared, and when returned to my abode. Before I she had gone we resumed our con- went to bed, however, I sat down versation. Had he not had the good and wrote a report of my doings for fortune to be such a great success in Miss Kitwater. Little as I had to his own profession, what an admir- tell, the writing of this letter gave able actor the man would have made! me considerable pleasure. I could His power of facial contortion was imagine it coming like a breath from extraordinary, and I believe that on another world to that quiet house at demand he could have imitated al- Bishopstowe. I pictured the girl's bary Pirates," by Herbert Vivian, M. most any face that struck his fancy. face as she read it, and the strained "And now with regard to our lit- attention of the two men, who, need- uted a chapter describing those secludthe excursion," he said. "What would less to say, would hang on every ed parts of oriental dwellings which no you like to be? As you are aware, word. When I had finished it I went can offer you a varied selection. to bed, to dream that Gideon Hayle ter, and the etiquette prevailing there. Will you be a workman, a peddler, an and I were swimming a race in the In a harem, as in occidental centers elderly gentleman from the prov- Seine for five gigantic rubies which of femininity, the costume of a lady

> good meal, or I am fit for nothing. -with each other. On this particular occasion I sat French is certainly not above re- the man: proach, and then wondered when I proved the reason of my visiting of the English queen." Paris. Then the door opened and the concierge entered with the words: surprise, no less a person than Gid- he had been hoaxed. eon Hayle entered the room.

CHAPTER IX.

At the moment that I saw Hayle enter my room, you might, as the NO LESS A PERSON THAN GIDEON all sorts of tricks upon me in order she wore beneath. to put me off the scent, he had boltinto the lion's mouth. It was as astonishing as it was inexplicable.

"Good morning, Mr. Fairfax," he said, bowing most politely to me as he spcke. "I hope you will forgive this early call. I only discovered your address an hour ago, and, as I did not wish to run the risk of losing

"You appeared to be fairly desirous of doing so last week," I said. 'What has occurred to make you change your mind so suddenly?"

"A variety of circumstances have being able to determine the benefit

"May I ask why you are sorry?"

"You knew them, then, when they were missionaries in China, I sup-

"That's the first time I have ever

heard what they were," he replied. 'Kitwater a missionary! You must forgive my laughing, but the idea is too ludicrous. I'll admit he's done a considerable amount of converting, three occasions, during the whole but it has been converting other people's money into his own pockets." He laughed at his own bad joke, and almost instantly grew serious once more. He was quite at him ease, and, though he must have known that I was familiar with the

story, or supposed story, of his villainy, seemed in no way ashamed. "Now, Mr. Fairfax," he went on, I know that you are surprised to see me this morning, but I don't a little talk together. First and fore-

most, you have been told the story of the stones I possess?" "I have heard Mr. Kitwater's version of it," I answered, cautiously. "I know that you robbed my clients

of them and then disappeared!" 'I did not rob them of the stones," he said, not in the least offended by the bluntness of my speech. "It is plain that you do not know how we obtained them. Perhaps it's as well that you should not, for there's more behind, and you'd go and get them. No! We obtained them honestly enough at a certain place, and I was have been cured and made temporate appointed to carry them. For this men by having the "CURE" adminisreason I secured them in a belt tered by loving friends and relatives about my waist. That night the Chinese came down upon us and made us prisoners. They murdered our two native servants, blinded Kitwater, and cut out Codd's tongue. I alone managed to effect my escape. and for all time. The "HOME GOLD Leaving my two companions for CURE" is sold at the extremely low dead, I managed to get away into the jungle. Good heavens! man, you can't imagine what I suffered after

I looked at him and saw that his face had grown pale at the mere recollection of his experiences.

[To Be Continued.]

A HAREM-SCARUM TIME.

All-Sufficient Experience of a German Duchess m. a Family Circle of Tunisian Ladies.

Ladies contemplating a visit to the Barbary States would do well to inform themselves by reading a recent book, "Tunisia and the Modern Bar-A., to which Mrs. Vivian has contribmasculine visitor is permitted to en-

were to be presented to the winner visitor is a source of interest and curiosity. When Mrs. Vivian paid calls the tinctly sociable when he pleased, endeavored to make himself agreeable to the passengers on board. On the first evening out of port, the conversation turned upon the value of diamonds, and one of the ladies on deavored to make himself agreeable to the passengers on board. On the first evening out of port, the conversation turned upon the value of diamonds, and one of the ladies on deavored to make himself agreeable to make himself agreeable whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole scriber who pays ix months in advance. It now offers a MAP of KENTUCKY, the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole scriber who pays ix months in advance. It now offers a MAP of KENTUCKY, the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole scriber who pays ix months in advance. It in ow offers a MAP of KENTUCKY, the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole scriber who pays ix months in advance. It in the matter of my break at her things, but on the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole scriber who pays ix months in advance. It is now offers a MAP of KENTUCKY, the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole family would gather round and pluck at her things, but on the whole family diamonds, and one of the ladies on he replied. "We'll be a couple of lasts in raris, I am essentially Engling and patting her gently and discussions and one of the ladies on he replied. "We'll be a couple of lasts in raris, I am essentially Engling and patting her gently and discussions and one of the ladies on lederly gentlemen in Paris for the lish. I must begin the day with a sing her raiment—cost, cut and cloror

So exalted a personage as the duchdown on the best terms with myself ess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha was less and the world in general. I made an fortunate. The gentleman who arexcellent meal, did the best I could ranged for the duchess' visit to the hawith the morning paper, but my rem of an old Arabian friend said to

"The lady who is coming to see you should set out to interview the man is the daughter of the emperor of all the Russias, and has married the son LEXINGTON should set out to interview the man is the daughter of the emperor of all

The old man was too polite to show incredulty; but when he saw a little 'A gentleman to see monsieur!" lady dressed in ordinary English Next moment, to my overwhelming clothes, he was quite convinced that

"A great princess," ha said to himself, "could not possibly go about except attended by a larger suite and attired in brocade or cloth of gold."

The ladies of his household were apparently of the same opinion, for the saying goes, have knocked me down duchess came out of the house terriwith a feather. Of all that could bly disheveled; they had pulled her possibly have happened, this was hair about, taken the combs out to surely the most unexpected! The look at them; tugged at her dress to man had endeavored to get me out see how strong the material was, and of his way in London, he had played even attempted to undo it to see what

The duchess was immensely amused. ed from England because he knew I "But," she declared, "now that I have was deliberately seeking me out, and and have no desire ever to visit an-

When Endurance Rebelled.

An Irish friend insisted that a Scotchman should stay at his house instead of a hotel, and kept him there for a month, playing the host in detail, even to treating him to all places of amusement, paying all the cab fares and the rest. When the visitor was returning to Dublin the Irishman saw him down to the steamer, and they went together to have a last eigar. "Now, look here," said the man from

Dunedin, "I'll hae nae mair o' this, Here ye've been keepin' me at your hoose for a month, an' payin' for a' the amusements, and cabs and so onthinking the matter over, and not I tell you I'll stan' nae mair o'it! We'll just hae a toss for this one!"-Scots-

Too Bad, Too Bad. "When I came of age," said Mr. Softleigh, "I promised mother that I'd never marry until I found the right

"Indeed!" exclaimed Hiss Sharpe. "Yes, and-er-you're the right girl." "That's too bad, for you're the

wrong man."-Tit-Bits. Willie Explained. Mamma-Willie! What's the baby

crying for? Willie-Oh! he's ungrateful that's

"Ungrateful?" "Yes'm. I jest showed him how to eat his cake and he don't 'preciate it.' -Philadelphia Press.

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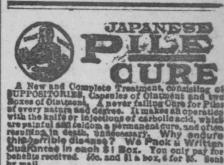
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